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### United States Patent

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Bence Lehman

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Attest



US005790172A

**United States Patent** [19]

Imanaka

[11] Patent Number: 5,790,172

[45] Date of Patent: Aug. 4, 1998

[54] **SERVER APPARATUS, SUBSCRIBER APPARATUS AND INFORMATION ON DEMAND SYSTEM**

[75] Inventor: Ryoichi Imanaka, Hirakata, Japan

[73] Assignee: Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd., Osaka, Japan

[21] Appl. No.: 503,604

[22] Filed: Jul. 18, 1995

[30] Foreign Application Priority Data

Jul. 19, 1994 [JP] Japan ..... 6-166695

[51] Int. CL<sup>6</sup> ..... H04N 7/16

[52] U.S. Cl. .... 348/7; 348/3; 348/5; 348/10; 348/12; 455/2; 455/6.2

[58] Field of Search ..... 348/7, 12, 13, 348/10, 11, 1, 2, 3, 5; 455/2, 4.2, 5.1, 6.1, 6.3; 386/83, 94; 380/3, 4, 5; 360/15; H04N 7/16, 6/173

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

An information on demand system provides a user of a terminal (subscriber) information through a network such as CATV such that the user pays an adequate charge to a server (information provider). According to the information on demand system, the received information can be recorded in a recording medium under control of the terminal equipment. Cases in which 1) the subscriber merely watches a program on a television receiver and; 2) the subscriber records the program and watches it by reproducing the recorded information at another time are distinguished and the subscriber is charged a different amount by the server accordingly.

13 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets

